

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7467

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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SUBJECT: ANGOLA IN BOTSWANA PRESS

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1. GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS OF JANUARY 5
CARRIES THE FOLLOWING STORY ON ANGOLA AND THE UPCOMING OAU
CONFERENCE. BEGIN TEXT. BOTSWANA DELEGATES RESENT SOUTH AFRICA S
INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.
ALTHOUGH BOTSWANA DOES NOT APPROVE I NTERFERENCE OF OTHER FORCES
IN ANGOLA, SOUTH AFRICA S PRESENCE THERE ADDS TO THE EXISTING
SITUATION A NEW SERIOUS DIMENSION, MR. L.M.J. LEGWAILA, SENIOR
PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT, S.A. MPUCHANE, ACTING SECRE-
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TARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HAVE SAID.

MR. LEGWAILA AND MR. MPUCHANE WHO WILL BE LEAVING TOMORROW TO ATTEND AN EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU) IN ADDIS ABABA WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS QTE. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT, IF NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT IN THE HISTORY OF THE OAU, END QUOTE CONDEMNED THEINTERVENTION OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ANGOLA.

THEY POINTED OUT THAT SOUTH AFRICA S INVOLVEMENT IN THE SITUATION DELAYS PROGRESS TOWARDS THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE. THEY SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICA WILL NOT ONLY SHOOT THE ANGOLANS BUT SHE WILL ALSO INCLUDE THE NAMIBIANS. QUOTE ALL INTERVENTIONISTS SIC IN AFRICA WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM GONE, END QUOTE THEY SAID, ADDING, QUOTE SOUTH AFRICA IS WHAT SHE IS AND THAT WE CANNOT AVOID, END QUOTE MR. LEGWAILA WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT IT WOULD BE LESS DIFFICULT TO EXERT PRESSURE ON RUSSIA THAN ON SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE BOTSWANA HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE FORMER AND THOSE CAN BE CUT.

COMMENTING ON THE JUSTIFICATION OF THE SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AS STATED BY PRESIDENT IDI AMIN OF UGANDA ON THE GROUNDS THAT RUSSIA HAD ALWAYS ASSISTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN THE PAST, MR. LEGWAILA AND MR. MPUCHANE POINTED OUT THAT THE FIGHT IN ANGOLA WAS NOT AGAINST AN IMPERIALIST REGIME AS THE CASE HAD BEEN IN THE PAST. THEY ACCEPTED THAT RUSSIA HAD ASSISTED LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THE PAST, BUT POINTED OUT THAT ANGOLA IS AN INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN STATE, AND THAT THE WAR WAS FOR ASCENDANCY TO GOVERNMENT RULE.

SPEAKING ABOUT THE BOTSWANA STAND ON THE ISSUE, MR. LEGWAILA SAID BOTSWANA HAS NOT EXTENDED RECOONITION TO ANY OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. HE STATED THAT BOTSWANA ADVOCATES THE NATIONAL UNITY OF ANGOLA. QUOTE THIS IS THE POLICY AS IT STANDS NOW, END QUOTE MR. LEGWAILA SAID.

IN RESPONSE TO SPECULATIONS THAT BY THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OAU, THE REQUIRED TWO THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS MAY BE IN SUPPORT OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR THE LIBERATION OF ANGOLA (MPLA), THE TWO OFFICIALS SAID THEY HAVE ADOPTED AN OPEN-MINDED UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE MEETING. THEY EXPLAINED THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE REACHED AFTER DISCUSSIONS AND PERSUASIONS AND THAT BOTSWANA WAS NOT ADOPTING A RIGID ATTITUDE IN ITS STAND.

IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ON WHAT STAND BOTSWANA WOULD TAKE IF AS

SUGGESTED BY PRESIDENT AMIN, THE OAU DECIDED TO SET UP AN ARMY FOR THE EXPULSION OF INTERVENTIONIST FORCES IN ANGOLA, MR LEGWAILA

AND MR. MPUCHANE SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WILL BE TO FIND THE BEST ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN SITUATION.

MR. MPUCHANE CLARIFIED THAT THIS WAS QUOTE A MERE SUGGESTION END QUOTE FROM PRESIDENT AMIN AND IT HAD NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT BEFORE THE OAU.

THE TWO OFFICIALS SAID THAT THEY HOPED THE LEADERS WILL CATEGORICALLY CALL FOR THE EXPULSION OF INTERVENTIONIST FORCES FROM ANGOLA.

THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE ANGOLAN ISSUE COULD BE DISASTROUS TO THE SOLIDARITY OF OAU. THEY ADDED THAT THEY HOPED THE LEADERS QUOTE WILL TAKE THIS AS THEIR GREATEST AND CRUCIAL CHALLENGE OR ELSE THERE IS NO OAU. END QUOTE.

QUOTE WE ONLY HOPE SOUTH AFRICA WILL GET OUT OR ELSE THERE IS TROUBLE, END QUOTE THEY CONCLUDED. END TEXT.

THOMSEN

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